Fire Island to Montauk Point (FIMP)
Reformulation Study

Preface: The purpose of the FIMP Vision Statement is to articulate the goals and strategies of the Reformulation Study so that all decision-makers, stakeholders, and study team members may share a common understanding in this multi-faceted study. It is hoped that the FIMP Reformulation Study will serve as a model for addressing similar coastal issues elsewhere on Long Island, the Northeast, and the United States as a whole.

Vision Statement

The vision for the Fire Island to Montauk Point Reformulation Study is to prepare an implementable, comprehensive, and long-term regional strategy for the 83 mile portion of the south shore of Suffolk County, Long Island, New York that will reduce risks to human life and property, while maintaining, enhancing, and restoring ecosystem integrity and coastal biodiversity. This will require an assessment of at risk properties within the 71 square mile floodplain, present and future sea level rise, restoration and protection of important coastal landforms and processes, and important public uses of the area. The Reformulation Study will lead to a project that provides New York State and its residents with lower storm damage risks and a full range of future options for coastal zone management.

The Reformulation Study is taking an innovative approach using the best available analyses tools for addressing coastal storm risk reduction and pre- and post-storm shoreline management along both barrier and mainland shorelines. The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers and the State of New York, in their lead project planning and cost sharing roles, are developing innovative management and restoration measures working with a wide range of stakeholders to establish comprehensive, consensus-based solutions. The final plan will recommend measures for implementation by federal agencies, New York State, Suffolk County and local governments through the exercise of all applicable governmental authorities to the maximum extent practical to achieve national, state and local objectives.

- No plan can reduce all risks. On-going monitoring will evaluate the effectiveness and impacts of implemented policies. The monitoring results will serve as the basis for adaptations and adjustments to improve the project's effectiveness and respond to the dynamic nature of the FIMP study area.

- Collection, analysis, and independent technical review of scientific data will be conducted to improve understandings of complex and dynamic, regional hydrologic, geomorphic, and ecological factors and interrelationships while simultaneously facilitating the building and sharing of an integrated scientific, economic, and social knowledge base.

- Efforts will be undertaken to reduce mainland and barrier island flooding through site specific measures that address the variety of causes of flooding throughout the study area, consistent with applicable agency laws and missions.

- Priority will be given to non-structural measures that reduce risks and provide protection to human life and property, restore and enhance coastal processes and ecosystem integrity, and are environmentally sustainable.

- Preference will be given to measures that protect and restore coastal landforms and natural habitats, aid in recovery of threatened and endangered species, enhance public recreation and use, and ensure perpetuation of essential physical and biological processes.

- Measures that avoid or minimize adverse environmental impacts and adequately address long-term demands for public resources will be used wherever and whenever appropriate and required, while continuing to accept and embrace governmental responsibility and accountability under the law.

- Dune and beach replenishment will be optimized to balance storm damage reduction and environmental considerations. Sand nourishment will be considered where it will create conditions suitable for restoration of natural processes and where appropriate to protect important uses. Active intervention will be considered where it is possible to achieve balance and synergy between human development, economic activities, and natural systems.

- Existing shore stabilization structures, inlet stabilization measures, dredging practices, and other coastal area modifications past and present, including bay and estuarine shorelines, will be assessed to examine their impacts and, as appropriate, recommended to be altered, mitigated or removed to help restore important physical and biological processes.

The FIMP Web Page:
http://www.nan.usace.army.mil/fimp/index.htm